Going Abroad on the Basis of Fake Documents

†804. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases that came into light during last year involving the incidents of making efforts to go abroad on the basis of fake documents;

(b) what was the motive of offenders alongwith the action taken against them;

(c) whether such incidents have tarnished the image of the country; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) During 1999 at the international airports 1469 cases of Indians attempting to leave the country on forged travel documents were detected.

(b) The motive of the offenders is usually attraction of employment and a better life abroad. Some cases of women and children using fake documents to go abroad to join their families have also been detected.

Action against the offenders is taken under the applicable laws.

(c) Most illegal migrants from India who manage to leave the country on the basis of fake documents are economic migrants. They work hard and as they contribute to the economy of the host country, most of them are eventually accepted by the host Government and their stay is regularized by way of grant of permanent stay visa, nationality, work permit etc. Their actions have not had any noticeable adverse impact on the image of the country.

(d) Efforts are made continously by the concerned agencies to detect and check any organized attempts to produce forged travel documents. All immigration staff also exercise vigilance in this

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

regard and are given special training and equipment to scrutinise travel documents to ascertain their genuineness.

Mutilation of India Pilot's body

805. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the case of mutilating the body of Indian pilot who was captured by Pakistan during the recent Kargil conflict with the International Court of Justice;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have drawn the attention of the international community to these brutal acts of torture and killing in captivity of the Indian pilot by Pakistan, including the statement to the UN General Assembly in New York on September 22, 1999. Government will continue to take up the matter in appropriate international forums.

Foreign Minister's London visit

806. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) Whether during his visit to London, India and Britain decided to accord top priority to fighting terrorism in the world.

(b) if so, what steps are envisaged to be taken by the two countries for fighting global terrorism; and

(c) Whether India and the UK also decided to set up a round table thereby bringing together opinion makers of the two countries; if so, what steps have since been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two countries will exchange information and cooperate bilaterally to combat global terrorism. India and the U.K. will also